

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's)	
Amateur Radio Service Rules to Eliminate)	RM - 10786
Morse Code Proficiency Testing Requirements)	
For All Classes of Amateur Licenses)	
)	
To: The Commission)	

Comments Of Keith A. Seltzer – WB6YDM

I would like to support the proposal to eliminate the “Element 1” Morse test totally from the Commission's rules for all license classes at as early a date as possible. And, because the only difference between the current Technician class and the so called Technician Plus license is Element 1, I would suggest that the privileges given to Technician class operators be the same as those currently held by Technician Plus licensees.

The ability to send and receive Morse Code is no longer recognized by virtually any other government or radio service. In addition, it is not required for effective emergency radio communications by amateur radio operators.

Even the IARU recognizes that continuing Morse proficiency requirements is no longer needed within the amateur radio service. And, the only reason that the Commission cited in its most recent comprehensive review of its Part 97 amateur rules (WT Docket No. 98-143) for keeping any Morse testing no longer exists.

The Commission concluded in WT Docket No. 98-143 that the public interest will best be served by reducing the (Morse) telegraphy examination requirement to the minimum requirement that that meets the [ITU] Radio Regulations.

The “minimum requirement that meets the ITU Radio Regulations” for any class of amateur license as of WRC-03, is no Morse test at all. Since the Commission is no longer bound to include Morse testing as part of the ITU Radio Regulations it can, and should follow the example of other administrations, such as those of the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Norway, New Zealand, Austria and the Netherlands.

It is not in the public interest for the Commission to impose unnecessary exam elements on those seeking a Commission-issued amateur radio license than would be faced by equally qualified individuals in other countries. This would discourage and unnecessarily limit the pool of operators available for emergency communications in our country.

As noted by others the continuation of the Morse Code requirement:

- Does not comport with the basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service.
- It acts as a barrier to entry or advancement to otherwise qualified persons.
- It is not necessarily indicative of an individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- It does not provide any indication of the examinee's good character, high intelligence, cooperative demeanor, or willingness to comply with the Commission's rules.
- It no longer continues to serve a regulatory purpose.
- It otherwise does not serve the public interest and necessity.

The Commission has the authority to amend its Part 97 rules to eliminate Morse proficiency requirements immediately. It considered the issue of continued Morse Code testing in WT Docket Number 98-143 where there was extensive input from the public and concerned parties, and to this date the only change from that consideration is that the only stated reason for retaining any Morse proficiency test has been removed (WRC-03).

By granting NCI's Petition, a burden on applicants for amateur radio licenses would be removed, no additional requirement would be imposed, and therefore no party or other person would be prejudiced by such Commission action.

The Commission should refrain from combining NCI's request for the prompt elimination of Morse test requirements from its rules with other substantially unrelated issues such as band segmentation, changes in the number of license classes, sweeping changes in operator privileges by license class, etc., because that would result in unnecessary, protracted delay in resolving this important and clear-cut issue.

Sincerely,

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